



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1st October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	DIR29S2\1038
Project title	Incentive-based approaches for biodiversity and well-being outcomes in small-scale fisheries
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	University of Oxford
Partner(s)	IPB University Yayasan Impak Laut Biru Yayasan Teman Laut Indonesia, Yayasan Konservasi dan Penelitian Pari Mobula
Project Leader	Hollie Booth
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2025 HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	https://mcm.web.ox.ac.uk/incentive-based-marine-conservation https://www.instagram.com/kebersamaan_untuk_lautan

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

During April – September 2025, the following progress has been made against our implementation timetable:

- 1. Output 1. Understand and design:** research outputs estimating how incentives could change fisher behaviour and impact biodiversity and human wellbeing compiled for 6 project sites (covering >300 households) by March 2024

Activities under Output 1 were completed during Year 2. During April – September 2025 the IPB PhD students' (1.1) research activities and the baseline data and recommendations (1.4, 1.5, 1.6) continued to be applied towards delivering Outputs 2, 3 and 4.

2. Output 2. Implement: incentive-based interventions are implemented in 4 coastal communities, with >200 participating fisher households, by March 2025.

Pilot incentive schemes, with regular distribution of incentives based on clear evidence of (by)catch mitigation (2.4), continued to be implemented in multiple project sites, as follows:

1. Compensate-to-release schemes in Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat Daya, Sumbawa, Tuban, Banda (and previously East Lombok), which have now reached a total of 379 households.
2. A gear swap program in Aceh Jaya, reaching 4 households.
3. A fisher-scientist program in Karimunjawa, reaching 4 households.
4. A price premiums program in Muncar, reaching 50 households.
5. A livelihood transition program in Alor, reaching 28 households.

3. Output 3. Evaluate: research outputs compiled detailing the impact and cost-effectiveness of the interventions - on marine biodiversity and human well-being - by August 2025.

Monitoring of fisher behaviour and wellbeing (3.3), megafauna bycatch (3.4) and disbursement of incentives (3.5) continued across all project sites, complimented by qualitative narratives from post-intervention interviews (3.6).

Our impact evaluation based on the first 14-months of data for East Lombok and Aceh Jaya was published in Science Advances in April 2025 (3.7, 3.8) with the results used for adaptive management. We also began compiling project data from across all sites for project-specific and overall impact evaluations (3.7, 3.8)

4. Output 4. Scale and legacy: institutions, capacity, long-term partnerships, and financing mechanisms are established, to maintain on-going investments in project sites, and share methods and lessons learned for scaling up to other sites, by March 2026.

The four PhD students at IPB University continued to conduct research in collaboration with the partner NGOs and receive on-going mentoring for writing up their thesis chapters (4.1). The students also begin publishing papers towards completion of their PhDs, with three student-led papers published and one further paper accepted for publication (4.1). NGO partners also received an online training on data cleaning and data management (4.2).

Four stakeholder engagement, consultation, and capacity building workshops were conducted for fishers and local governments in Aceh, West Nusa Tenggara and Karimunjawa, to share results from the project and discuss next steps (4.3). As part of these workshops, three new policy briefs were prepared for DKP Aceh and DKP West Nusa Tenggara on how results and lessons learned from the Darwin project can be used to inform marine protected area management plans and provincial level fisheries management plans (4.5).

The project leader (Booth) together with one of the project partners (KUL) were accepted into the Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) incubator program, and through this program Booth and KUL have been developing a business plan, prioritising financial solutions and reaching out to potential funders to secure sustainable financing. There are currently four 'warm leads' for revenue generation – one from a potential corporate partner as part of their Nature Strategy, two from Indonesia-based marine tourism companies, and one from the JCU FinStitute through a paid-for voluntourism mechanism (4.4). Funding from the CFA incubator program has also enabled a new initiative to start monitoring the abundance and diversity of shark populations in one of the project sites using Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS), with the hope that this data can be used to boost impact evaluation and potentially enable future eligibility for emerging marine nature credit schemes.

Results and lessons learned from the project were presented at 1 international and 1 domestic conference, including: the SCB International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) in Brisbane, Australia (June 2025) and Friends of the Sea conference held at Syiah Kulia University in Banda Aceh, Indonesia (August 2025) (4.7).

Approaches, case studies and lessons learned from the project continue to be incorporated into educational materials and delivered to build capacity of students in Indonesia and Southeast Asia more broadly, including in development of the conservation practitioners' socio-ecological systems 'bootcamp' curriculum at IPB as well as an Asia Shark Research and Conservation Leadership Workshop in Palawan, Philippines (July 2025) which provided capacity building for 25 delegates from around Asia. The project leader (Booth) led a half-day workshop on human dimensions of shark conservation using data and lessons learned from this project as teaching materials.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

There are no notable problems from the last 6-months.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:

NA

Formal Change Request submitted:

NA

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

NA

Change Request reference if known: NA

Guidance for Section 4: The information you provide in this section will be used by Defra to review the financial status of projects. This review will identify projects at random for spot checks on financial management and will include requests for evidence of the actual spend information provided below. Please ensure the figures you provide are as accurate as possible and that you have the evidence to support it. You do not need to provide it now.

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

Actual spend: [REDACTED]

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2026)?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Estimated underspend: £

4c. If you expect an underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible, and not later than 31st December. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Suspensions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

NA

6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

NA

NA

7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

Our Annual Report review included three comments/queries to be addressed in our HY report as follows:

1. Please provide information on when and how the project intends to interact with the CITES and IUCN contact points in Indonesia Section 5 refers.

The project already interacts regularly with CITES and IUCN contact points in Indonesia in two ways. 1) The project leader (Booth) is a collaborator under [IWTEX005](#), primarily through co-supervision of a PhD student at IPB funded under this project, but also through regular project coordination meetings with the project leader (Dr Joanna Murray), MMAF, IPB University and Rekam Foundation. One key way in which this project support CITES implementation is through collecting, publishing and sharing catch data for CITES-listed species (which can be used for stock assessments and NDFs, as supported under IWTEX005), and Booth is already working closely with Murray to ensure timely data is provided to support MMAF's timeline for priority stock assessments and NDFs. 2) Booth is also a member of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, and therefore interacts regularly with other IUCN contact points in Indonesia, SE Asia and globally.

Checklist for submission

Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, and annexe other requested materials as appropriate.	Y
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Y
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	NA
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Y
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com	Y
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Y